

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, OAS, SHUM, OVIP, UY
SUBJ: CONVERSATIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: STATE 067172

1. I APPRECIATE THE REPORT CONTAINED IN REFTEL WHICH IS VERY INTERESTING. IT COULD BE, AS SURMISED IN PARA. 4 OF REFTEL, THAT THE CONFUSED SITUATION DESCRIBED IN MVD 1176 (REFTEL ERRONEOUSLY CITED MVD 1175) AND MVD 1204 WAS THE REASON FOR DECISION NOT TO CONSIDER AN IAHRC VISIT. HOWEVER, IT IS OUR BELIEF THAT THIS FACTOR, IF IT PLAYED A PART AT ALL, WAS ONLY CONTRIBUTORY. THAT SITUATION, EVEN IF TRUE (BUT WAS FORMALLY DENIED), APPARENTLY HAD TO DO NOT WITH THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM BUT WITH THE QUESTION OF POLITICAL LIBERALIZATION.

2. IN OUR VIEW THE DEVELOPMENT SUGGESTS THAT PEREZ CALDAS AND ARANEO, WHO QUITE RIGHTLY LEFT HERE SEVERAL WEEKS AGO WITH AT LEAST CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM FOR PROGRESS ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM, MAY NOT APPRECIATE THE DEPTH OF REACTION IN THE GOVERNMENT TO DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THEN ON HUMAN RIGHTS PRINCIPALLY RELATING TO THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT AND THE REPORT TO THE CONGRESS. AS WE HAD PREVIOUSLY PREDICTED AND SUBSEQUENTLY REPORTED, THIS REACTION AT LEAST STALLED WHAT WE HAD PERCEIVED AS HOPEFUL DEVELOPMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND PUT THE HARDLINERS IN THE ASCENDENCY, AT

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LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING. THE PROMPT VETO OF WASHINGTON FEELER ON AN IAHRC INVITATION FOLLOWING A HIGH-LEVEL VISIT SEEMS TO CONFIRM THIS.

3. THE IDEA OF A HIGH-LEVEL VISIT IS NOT A BAD ONE IF SUCH A VISIT WAS ARRANGED PURELY AS A FRIENDLY EFFORT TO ASCERTAIN FACTS AND DISCUSS POSSIBLE BASES FOR MENDING RELATIONS, INCLUDING, OF COURSE,

THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM. HOWEVER, TRYING TO PRE-CONDITION IT TO A COMMITMENT TO INVITE THE IAHRC UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, OR TO SOME OTHER PRE-CONDITION, WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY CONTINUE TO FAIL. IN THE PARM WE WILL SUGGEST SOME POSSIBLE OBJECTIVES FOR AN AGENDA (BUT NOT PRE-CONDITIONS) WHICH COULD BE THE FRAMEWORK OF SPECIAL EMISSARY DISCUSSIONS.

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